

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3986

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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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UNCLAS HONG KONG 2157

FOR AGRICULTURE, FAS, GRAIN AND FEED DIV.

FROM AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: PRC OVERFULFILLS 1974 GRAIN PROCUREMENT PLAN

SUMMARY: NCNA FEB. 26 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 15 PROVINCES HAVE OVERFULFILLED

1974 STATE PROCUREMENT PLAN FOR GRAIN STRENGTHENS ESTIMATES THAT PRC ENJOYED RECORD HARVEST LAST YEAR. PREVIOUS CLAIMS OF OVERFULFILLMENT ON NATIONAL LEVEL IN PAST FIVE YEARS WERE ONLY FOR HARVESTS OF 1970 AND 1971. END SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING FEB. 27 EDITION HK WEN HUI PAO (QUOTING NCNA FEB. 26), PRC'S 1974 STATE LEVY AND PROCUREMENT PLAN IS ALREADY OVERFULFILLED. AMONG 15 PROVINCIAL-LEVEL REGIONS OVERFULFILLING PLAN, DELIVERIES FROM

FIVE PROVINCES (LIAONING, KIRIN, HEILUNGKIANG, INNER MONGOLIA AND TIENTSIN) EXCEEDED QUOTA LEVELS BY MORE THAN 10 PERCENT. REMAINING 10 PROVINCES ALSO "OVERFULFILLING" PLAN WERE: PEKING, HOPEH, SHANSI, UNCLASSIFIED

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SHENSI, NINGSIA HUI, KIANGSU, SHANGHAI, HUPEH, KWANGTUNG AND TIBET.

2. COMMENT: REPORT APPEARS TO BE FIRM CLAIMS WHICH STRENGTHENS AG OFFICE EARLIER ESTIMATES OR RECORD GRAIN HARVEST FOR 1974. INCLUDED IN LIST WERE TWO PROVINCES, KIRIN AND KIANGSU, FOR WHICH NO CLAIMED INCREASE IN GRAIN PRODUCTION HAD EARLIER BEEN NOTED. ALSO INCLUDED WAS SHANSI PROVINCE WHICH AG OFFICE HAD BELIEVED TO HAVE SUFFERED SHORTFALL IN 1974 BECAUSE OF DROUGHT, AND WHICH CH'EN YUNG-KUEI CLAIMED IN DECEMBER HAD GATHERED A RECORD GRAIN CROP IN 1974 DESPITE ITS GRAIN-DEFICIT STATUS.

3. ALSO SUPPORTING CONCLUSION THAT THIS FAVORABLE PROCUREMENT REPORT STRENGTHENS ESTIMATES (AND CLAIMS) OF RECORD GRAIN HARVEST IN 1974, IS RECENT PAST HISTORY OF PRC PROCUREMENT CLAIMS VIS-A-VIS PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE: (A) ON JAN. 24, 1971, NCNA ANNOUNCED OVERFULFILLMENT OF 1970 GRAIN PROCUREMENT PLAN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. (1970 WAS RECORD HARVEST YEAR OF 240 MILLION METRIC TONS.); (B) ON FEB. 18, 1972, NCNA REPORTED OVERFULFILLMENT OF 1971 STATE PURCHASING PLAN FOR GRAIN. (1971 HARVEST WAS OFFICIALLY CLAIMED AT RECORD 246 MILLION M.T.); (C) 1972 WAS BAD YEAR FOR PRC GRAIN PRODUCTION, GENERALLY CONSIDERED AS 240 MILLION M.T., AND NO REPORT OF GRAIN PROCUREMENT WAS MADE; (D) ALTHOUGH 1973 WAS CLAIMED NEW RECORD, IN EXCESS OF 250 MILLION M.T., NO NATIONAL REPORT ON PROCUREMENT OF GRAIN WAS MADE--ONLY REPORTS FROM A FEW PROVINCES. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE EFFECTS OF THE 1972 SHORTFALL EITHER PREVENTED FULFILLMENT OF THE 1973 GRAIN PROCUREMENT PLAN OR SO DELAYED IT THAT A FAVORABLE NATIONAL REPORT WAS EITHER NOT POSSIBLE OR NOT FEASIBLE.

4. ALSO IMPRESSIVE IN CLAIM FOR 1974 GRAIN PROCUREMENT IS LARGE NUMBER OF PROVINCES REPORTED AS OVERFULFILLING PLAN; I.E. 15 OUT OF 29 PROVINCE-LEVEL UNITS. IN REPORT FOR 1970, THERE WERE 13 AND FOR 1971, ONLY 7 PROVINCES OVERFULFILLING THE STATE PROCUREMENT PLAN.
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